Amherst Theo. Sem. April 2nd No. 6th time goes
so fast I can't keep up. 1850.

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Vol II

Dear Matilda.

I since that it is some weeks yes months since I last wrote home. Doubtless by this time Mother will be willing if not desirous to hear again from L.B.P. & to hear particulars, what he has done, is doing, or is going to do— In reference to the two first parties I wish I could tell you a much better story. & give you a more pleasing account than my conscience will let me at present admit, but as it respects the latter I can not say much, I have not the power of looking into futurity. I received license at the time I mentioned. visited Rochester, spent a number of days with Sister Julia. I see some she was glad to see a brother: she was if tears can talk, & grasping in the arms means any thing. When I left she cried roundly. I with the fountain of tears made of Reiner stuff, so that the fountain of tears could not be so easily broken open.— I have remained in the seminary since, excepting occasional trumps on past an the stage to the destitute churches around us.

I have preached three Sabbaths past, & am expecting to be employed so long as I continue at Amherst.—

Am preaching at Springport 8 miles South of Auburn. My hopes & my future prospects, I can not speak with much certainty, can only tell you what I have done & am expecting to do. In February the Faculty received a communication from Upper Canada requesting one or two young men to be sent this spring to labour as ministers. The districts (Missionary) in Canada have just commenced operations, & have raised but 800 dollars for the support of a Missionary. They however have applied to Home Missionary society, N.Y. for assistance, which has been promised. Dr Pearse applied to me & urged me to be one of the number who should enter that field, under the patronage of H.M.S. I took the subject in consideration, made it a subject of prayer that I might be right & finaly concluded to go. Brother Howard is my yoke fellow. We are expecting our commissions from New York in May. & shall probably be set apart some time in June.— When I shall again be permitted to visit my beloved home, my dear dear friends I cannot tell. I am not sure, I hope & have given my self to the Lord. & feel determined the Lord assisting me to labour, to go, & to stay as heaven shall direct. I expect to be able to send you many sufficient to meet my debts. (Say Reuings & Alford debts) in the course of the summer. Respecting our labours in C. I can only tell you, we expect to spend our time in a section of country 100 miles in length by 30 in breadth. can average 30,000 in habitants without one Minister of the Gospel. I do not expect to live at ease. I do not desire it. I do expect if I may be counted worthy to suffer for the sake of Xt. Let me enjoy a mothers prayers. My faith is weak & Jesus Paul may I cast it but Christ must give the increase.— I have just returned from Spring port, found a letter in the office from my dear Sister Maria [illegible] my paper & to

to preach three times [illegible] again upon

My Dear Sister Maria, you cannot conceive, nor can I tell you the feelings which your letter occasioned. I can only tell you my eyes were melted to tears, & I was obliged to stop while reading it, & lay it aside till my feelings should be composed. My heart was slow to believe what the Lord had done, for you & brought fresh to mind my past unbelief, & convinced me how I distrusted the goodness & the pardoning mercy of the God of Heaven. What I might repent of my wickedness & guilt in thus doubting the goodness of God & his willingness to save my dear friends. I will my dear Sister, try to unite with you in rendering praise to God, for his sovereign grace, in opening your eyes to see your ears to hear, & causing your heart to feel. I have often thought of your situation the winter past, & have tried to remember your case in my closet before God. The Lord has granted my desires, but I dare not. I will not say he has answered my prayers, for I have had little faith, & less confidence. I can only say the Lord is good, his mercies are over all his works. I will rejoice in him & be glad. Why was it, dear Sister, that you remained so long a willing captive to the enemy of your souls? you have often been told, that the religion of Jesus was pleasure, that Jesus was lovely, & that your Heavenly Father was worthy of your supreme affection. O, the love of the world! how it ruins souls! I trust you will not yet be sunk in the pit & the miry clay from which yours but have been taken. If the Lord has snatched me, poor, & sinner, your (when awaking) help has all been upon my arm. You have been a daughter & a sister to many prayers. Many have been the petitions, made for you, & many have been the tears which have been shed for your repentance & salvation. & I trust many have been the tears which you yourself have shed, when you have remembered your past life, & seen how heinous your feelings of pain were heart at the recollection of a life of sin. But has the Lord lifted the light of his countenance upon you & granted you peace, to him be all the praise, all the glory. It is he alone that has done this great work, & for it he demands our unfeigned gratitude & praise. & how may dear sister how shall we express our gratitude for this inestimable blessing of Heaven? What says our dear Saviour? If ye love me ye will keep my commandments. Yes this is the way. If we do love Jesus for what he has done for our souls, we shall inquire Lord what will thou have me to do & we shall do it with delight, whatever he may command us. We shall love to pray, our closets will be the delight of our souls, for there we shall find him whom our souls love. Our hearts will go out after God, our affections & desires will embrace, a dying world, & we shall plead with the King of Heaven to save for his great names sake. But we shall not only pray, we shall act also. No child of God was ever denied the privilege of doing good. of being active in the cause of Xt. By their fruits ye shall know them. And now my Sister, you will try your feelings by this test. Do you pray & love to pray not for your self simply, that you may go to Heaven but that God may be glorified, that his grace may abound upon you, that you may be free from sin, & that those around you made in the road to ruin may be saved by the same grace. which is so rich so free, & do you not only pray but do you love to take up the cross & follow your Saviour. love to serve &

entreat sinners to become reconciled to God. My
heart bleeds for you my dear sister, & my tears almost prevent
my writing, for I fear you will be an unprofitable servant as your
wicked brother has been since he took the names of the Lord upon him.
I do beseech you, I do it more weeping, that you will never dis-
honour the dear cause of Xt. for I can tell you by sad experience
if you do, you will wound deep your own soul. Do be a faithful
disciple of our precious Saviour who bled & died for us. Be
like that Mary who sat at his feet, who washed them with her
tears & wiped them with the hairs of her head. I do hope the
Lord has had mercy on your soul. that your sins are pardoned
& forgiven. & that your hope is laid upon the everlasting rock.
the mine may be upon the sand. Let us dear girl, examine
our hearts by the word of eternal truth. Knowing that they
are deceitful above all things & desperately wicked. I need
not tell you I want to see you. But with my present feelings
I could not bear the interview. - I must leave you for the
present, as my present calls are passing. — More pray for
you brother that he may be the honoured instrument of saving
many souls — And that the Lord may ever smile upon you
& yours is the prayer of your brother who love you
P.P. Bates

I cannot close without one word more
to my dear Mother. I need not tell you that the in-
telligence from home as affected my heart, & causes
me to be silent the very stones would cry out. While
walking out a few moments I have been reflecting upon
my Dear Father whom we hope is long since gone home. Did
he not dear Mother pray for the children the last time him
did he not desire their conversion & salvation? Yes I well
recollect the last evening he went to bed before the throne
of grace & gave us all up to the Lord. But tho he long desir
ed our conversion, it pleased the Lord that he should
die without the sight. But in his mercy it has pleased
him to spare your life to witness the hopeful conversion
of all those for whom he prayed. Can this be a reality? is
it true? has God been thus merciful unto us? In view
of it, I sometimes that my dear mother must exclaim "Now Lord
lettest thou thy servant depart in peace for mine eyes have
seen thy salvation". This to me has been a solemn every
one which I trust will not be soon forgotten. The Lord
grant that it may bring me into the closet before him.

My best respects to all friends. Mrs Johnson's
health is better than it was in the fall. Mrs Remington I
visited in the winter, had a very interesting time indeed
with that good mother of Israel. My health is good
I find that my lungs are not very strong. It affects them much
to preach three times a day - Hope they will be strong
enough — Yours affectionately Sam P.P. Bates

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Single.

Miss Maria Preston

Rupert

Bennington Co Vt.

Apr. 1830